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ROXBURY, DEC. 11, 1877.

MY DEAR WENDELL:

I HAVE JUST RECEIVED YOUR LETTER, WITH ITS FILIAL BIRTHDAY REMEMBRANCE, AND IN RETURN SEND YOU A FATHERLY BENEDICTION.

ACCEPT THIS, LITERALLY, AS TYPICAL OF MY IMMEASURABLE AFFECTION FOR YOU, YOUR DEAR CHILDREN INCLUSIVE. I AM EXPERIMENTING WITH A LITTLE MACHINE, CALLED THE TYPE- WRITER, WHICH YOU MAY HAVE SEEN; AND AS I AM JUST BEGINNING TO MANIPULATE THE KEYS, I CANNOT FAIL TO MAKE SOME VERY PALPABLE BLUNDERS BEFORE I GET THROUGH. OF COURSE, IT MUST BE SLOW WORK AT FIRST; AND THE QUESTION IS WHETHER BY PRACTICE I SHALL FIND IT EASIER AND MORE EXPEDITIOUS TO PRINT THAN TO WRITE WITH PEN AND INK. IF SO, I MAY BE INDUCED TO RESORT TO THIS METHOD TO CARRY ON MY CORRESPONDENCE. IT IS PRECISELY LIKE PLAYING ON THE KEYS OF A PIANO. A DAUGHTER OF DR. PERCY, NOW MRS. SAUNDERS, WAS HERE THE OTHER EVENING, AND BY HER DEXTERITY SUCCEEDED IN PRINTING NINETY WORDS IN ONE MINUTE.

I HAVE SENT A LETTER, DECLINING THE INVITATION TO ATTEND THE ANNUAL FESTIVAL OF THE NEW ENGLAND SOCIETY AT NEW YORK ON THE 22D INST., THOUGH STRONGLY URGED TO BE PRESENT AND SPEAK ON THE OCCASION. IF I HAD NO OTHER REASON FOR REMAINING AWAY, THE CONVIVIAL WINE-DRINKING AND SMOKING INDULGED GENERALLY WOULD ALONE SUFFICE. I SENT A LETTER IN REPLY TO MR. APPLETON, WITH THANKS, TO BE READ OR WITHHELD AS HE MIGHT CHOOSE. IT HAD REFERENCE TO THE QUESTION OF RELIGIOUS FREEDOM AND THE RIGHTS OF CONSCIENCE, AND THE

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IN SOME WAY BE SATISFACTORILY REMOVED, AL-
I COULD WISH THAT THIS UNCERTAINTY MIGHT
ING BEEN BORN THE YEAR PREVIOUS.

YET HE RECORDS ME WITH HIS OWN HAND AS HAV-
SEEMTS MAKE IT CONCLUSIVE FOR THAT YEAR;

MY FATHER'S LETTER TO HIS PARENTS IN 1805
WHETHER I WAS BORN IN 1804 OR 1805; THOUGH
FINAL. AGAIN, IT IS NOT ABSOLUTELY CERTAIN
A GUANDARY AS TO WHICH DAY TO ACCEPT AS
STATE IT TO BE ON THE 12TH. SO I AM LEFT
MY OWN CALCULATION; BUT THE TOWN RECORDS
YESTERDAY WAS MY BIRTHDAY, ACCORDING TO

AND SELF-SACRIFICING FOR THE GOOD OF OTHERS.
ED IN ACTION, MODEST IN SELF-APPRECIATION,

THAT AMIABLE AND PURE IN SPIRIT, DISINTERESTED
WOMEN, TO BE FOUND IN ALL THE LAND, IN ALL

TRUTH, THERE ARE COMPARATIVELY FEW SUCH
SPECT AND AFFECTION I CHERISH FOR HER. IN

DURING THE WINTER. I CANNOT EXPRESS THE RE-
SHE WILL NEED TO TAKE GREAT CARE OF HERSELF

INDEED TO HEAR THAT SHE IS CONVATESCING, BUT
TUDE ABOUT HER CASE. IT IS A GREAT RELIEF

HER LATE ILLNESS, AND FELT NO LITTLE SOLICIT-
DEEPLY SYMPATHISED WITH DEAR MRS. M'KIM IN

TO SEE YOU ALL. I NEED NOT SAY THAT I HAVE
TWO WITH YOU AT THE PARK. I VERY MUCH DESIRE

YEAR'S DAY. I SHALL TRY TO SPEND A DAY OR
OF THE 22D, PROBABLY TO REMAIN TILL NEW

CLE PRESENT, TO REACH NEW YORK ON THE EVENING
IT IS NOW MY INTENTION, SHOULD NO OBSTA-

ED HAS NEVER BEEN CONSISTENTLY CARRIED OUT.
IN THIS NEW WORLD, BUT THE DOCTRINE ASSERT

OBJECT THAT THE PILGRIMS SOUGHT A REFUGE IN
OR PERSECUTION. IT WAS PROFFESSEDLY FOR THE

WIDEST LIBERTY OF DISSENT WITHOUT REPROACH
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THOUGH IT IS OF LITTLE CONSEQUENCE IN ITSELF.

THERE IS ONE THOUGHT THAT OCCURS TO ME, THAT SERVES TO COMPLICATE THE DIFFICULTY. AS THE FARNHAMS KNEW WHEN I WAS BORN, THE ADVENT HAVING TAKEN PLACE UNDER THEIR ROOF, AND AS I LIVED WITH THEM SEVERAL YEARS, IT IS SINGULAR THAT THEY DID NOT ENLIGHTEN ME AS TO THE YEAR OF MY BIRTH; FOR THEY KNEW THAT I RECKONED FROM DEC. 10, 1804, AND ON THAT CALCULATION I TERMINATED MY APPRENTICESHIP, THOUGH I SERVED MORE THAN SEVEN YEARS. I AM GOING AGAIN TO NEWBURYPORT TO SEE WHETHER I CAN GET ANY ADDITIONAL LIGHT ON THE SUBJECT.

YESTERDAY MRS. PITMAN SENT ME AN EXQUISITE BOUQUET, WITH A WARM CONGRATULATORY NOTE, AS A BIRTHDAY TOKEN OF REMEMBRANCE. IT WAS VERY GRATIFYING.

I HAVE RECEIVED FROM FANNY A DESCRIPTIVE ACCOUNT OF THE EXCURSION TO CHESTER, WITH A LARGE PARTY, TO WITNESS THE LAUNCHING OF THE STEAMSHIP OREGON. UNLUCKILY, THE LAUNCH COULD NOT BE EFFECTED, SO THAT ANOTHER TRIAL HAS TO BE MADE. IN SPITE OF THE DISAPPOINTMENT, HOWEVER, THEY HAD A PLEASANT TIME, AND MADE THE BEST OF IT. IT MUST HAVE BEEN RATHER TRYING TO HARRY.

DO YOU EXCHANGE WITH THE LITERARY WORLD? IF NOT, WOULD YOU LIKE A COPY CONTAINING THE TRIBUTES TO WHITTIER, ON THE COMPLETION OF HIS 70TH YEAR? I WILL SEND YOU ONE, IF

~~YOU HAVE NOT ALREADY RECEIVED ONE FROM ME. I HAVE NO DOUBT~~
~~YOU WOULD BE GLAD TO HAVE IT. I WILL SEND YOU ONE, IF~~
 YOU CARE TO HAVE IT.

Your loving Father.

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